Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

4. The Government set up a Working Group on "Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The recommendation made by the Working Group was examined comprehensively and a draft Bill prepared for the purpose has been revised on the recommendations finalised by the Group of Ministers on February 2,2000. Accordingly, action has been initiated to introduce the Bill in the Parliament.

5. Besides, the Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/99-AVD.III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

Elimination of Corruption

2378. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Corruption harming country like militancy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that corruption in the country have reached at its peak and the various anti-corruption agencies set up by Government have totally failed to check this evil practice;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any further steps to eliminate corruption in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government is fully alive to the need to provide clean administration and to eradicate the malady of corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption in public services to check malpractices in administration is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. The Head of each Ministry/Department of the Government of India and its organisations is responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in the respective organisation. All the Anti Corruption Agencies of the Government viz. Internal Vigilance set up in the Ministries/Departments, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a premier investigating agency of the Central Government and the Central Vigilance Commission are making all out efforts to curb corruption from public life. The Government has recently taken the following initiatives for eradication of corruption:—

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation launched special drives to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conducted surprise check at sensitive places.

2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, However, lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to re-introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

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Amendments in Constitution for welfare of SCs / STs

2379. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring up a legislation to amend the Constitution of India not only for effective implementation of the policy of reservations for scheduled Castes / Tribes in regard to appointments and posts including promotion opportunities but also to provides for punishment for non-implementations and adopting obstructive measures in implementation thereof; and

(b) if so, by when such legislation would be brought up; and

(c) whether such a law is also proposed to be placed under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) No such decision has been taken as on date.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Confiscation of properties of corrupt people

2380. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item titled Corruption has to be nipped in the bud appearing in Times of India dated 7th Februrary, 2000;